

**Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks**

1420 E the Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701  
(406) 444-2452

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

Fur Farm

**PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION**

Project Title: Frazier Fur Farm

Application Date: February 2, 2006

Name, Address and Phone Number:

Shelli Frazier  
661 HWY 200 West  
Plains, MT 59859

Project Location: T20N R27W Section 1

Description of Project: Applicant wishes to establish and operate a fur farm to propagate and sell Bobcats. The applicants plan to initially have 2-4 bobcats in enclosed cages. When fully operational, operators have indicated that they may have up to 50 bobcats on the premises.

Per Montana laws, all bobcats possessed by fur farm licensees must be obtained from other fur farms licensed by the state of Montana or from licensed facilities in other states. All furbearers lawfully raised on a licensed fur farm are the private property of the licensee, and the licensee may sell or transfer such furbearers as private property. Licensees are required to report any transactions to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks on an annual basis, are inspected for compliance with caging requirements, and must renew their license annually.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

None

## **PART 2 . ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectional odors			X			
9. Historical & archaeological sites	X					#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

### **Comments**

9. No ground disturbance is planned, therefore no historical and/or archeological site evaluation was undertaken.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment .

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue			X			#3
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			#10
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

### **Comments**

- 3. State taxes will be collected on sold pelts or live animals as increased income for the licensee.
- 10. Fur farm inspections by local department personnel (game wardens) will result in costs to the state for regulation of the fur farm that are not totally recoverable from the fur farm license fee.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?

No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?

No

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative 1: No action – Do not license the fur farm.

Alternative 2: License the fur farm following inspection of the enclosures and require the licensee to comply with MCA 87-4-1001 through 87-4-1014 and Administrative Rules of Montana ARM 12.6.1701 through 12.6.1704.

List suggested mitigative measures for license:

FWP has the right and responsibility under MCA 87-4-1007 to inspect the fur farm and the records required to be kept by the fur farm on a scheduled basis or on such other reasonable basis as may be determined necessary.

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Warden Tom Chianelli

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Biologist Bruce Sterling

**EA prepared by:** Bruce Sterling, Area Wildlife Biologist

**Date Completed:** March 8, 2006

**Comments regarding this draft environmental assessment can be emailed to [bstirling@mt.gov](mailto:bstirling@mt.gov) or mailed to:** Bruce Sterling

**P.O. Box 35**

**Thompson Falls, MT 59873**

**This draft EA was placed on the FWP website on March 10, 2006 with an invitation for interested public to comment on the proposed project. Comments regarding this EA will be accepted until March 24, 2006.**